

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
August 16, 2001
2:00PM
Blatt Bldg., Rm. 433

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Mr. Barnet recognized Mrs. Rosie Berry for her contributions to the EOC during her appointment from 1998-2001. He presented her with a plaque honoring her role and thanked her commitment to the work of the EOC and her continuing professional contributions as an educator. Mrs. Berry thanked Mr. Barnet and EOC members for their support and challenged everyone to continue working toward our common goals.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the July 19-20 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports:
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: The Subcommittee did not have a report.
 - B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He summarized the content and recommendations of the two reports below:
 - (1) The Teaching of African American History: Dr. Marvin Dulaney of the Avery Center on African-American History at the University of Charleston prepared this report for the EOC. The report included results of a survey of educators regarding the teaching of African-American history. Educators report that the content is taught, although there is a range of strategies including full infusion and emphasis only during February. The report outlined materials used in classrooms, including the state-developed publication. Preliminary discussions with students; however, indicated that student knowledge of African-American history and their impression of how it is taught differs from educator reports.

Mr. Staton indicated that the Subcommittee is concerned that there is not a clear statement of expectations for the program, results measures and strategies to measure those results. He also suggested that there needed to be a leadership commitment to the program from state levels through to the classroom.

Members discussed the report expressing concern for the quality of implementation and the need for a clear program focus. The Committee accepted the report and asked that it be transmitted to Supt. Tenenbaum for future collaborative work.
 - (2) The Advanced Placement Program: Dr. Paul Horne prepared the report on the Advanced Placement program required for all SC high schools. Data presented in the report detailed offerings, student participation and student success. State and local policies, including professional development opportunities, are reviewed in the report.

Members discussed the disparities in performance and the utilization of the program to promote rigor in the high school curriculum. Members reviewed the role of AP, International Baccalaureate, dual credit and the PACE program and their interrelationship. There was discussion of the role of guidance counselors

to encourage more students to enroll in the rigorous curriculum and urged members to address the racial/ethnic and gender gaps in both participation and performance. Dr. Gummerson emphasized the role of AP and International Baccalaureate programs in raising the culture of the high school. He recommended that we examine how students are enrolled and supported in the courses, urging early preparation for students so that they do succeed. He reminded members that college admissions officers are very interested in student enrollment in AP/IB and the most rigorous level of courses. He also stated the need for clear program objectives. Mrs. Thompson affirmed the potential of vertical program integration. Mr. Martin expressed concern that the three programs (AP, dual credit, and PACE) are competitive and strategies to reduce that competition are needed. The Committee accepted the report and asked that it be transmitted officially to Superintendent Tenenbaum for future collaborative work.

- C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. A contract is under review with the Institute for Families and Society to develop the parent survey for the report card.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reported that nearly 1000 individuals had attended either the business or educator communications workshops and that four additional sessions had been scheduled.

He reported that two ETV programs on accountability are to be broadcast. The first, "The Education Accountability Puzzle", features explanations of the accountability legislation. That program airs on Sunday, August 19 at 6:30 p.m. A second program focusing on the report card and change efforts in local districts airs October 7.

Mr. Smith summarized the morning meeting with legislators. Approximately 65 legislators attending the one-hour briefing. Mr. Barnett noted that one legislator suggested that South Carolina's goal should be to be in the top quarter of states, not merely the top half.

- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnett reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the changes in objectives for the 2001-2002 year. The Committee approved these.

Mr. Barnett reminded members of the September meeting in the Pee Dee region. He distributed an article by Phil Kirk, a leader in North Carolina's school reform efforts.

- IV. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Ronald Epps presented the change strategies Richland County School District One is following to increase the level of student achievement. He detailed the district approach to managing the change process. This approach includes four strategies: intensive and strategic staff development, the development of learning communities, leadership development, and utilization of pedagogy and best practices. The district also has incorporated an approach of targeted assistance to eighteen priority schools. The district also has a continuing relationship with the Education Trust Standards and Practice Project. He congratulated members on holding the mark on standards and accountability. He indicated that South Carolina is focused on the education of all children and challenged us to keep that premise first.
- V. General Discussion: Representative Townsend spoke about the recent STATE newspaper editorial regarding EOC membership. He reminded members and requested a correction from the newspaper on the appointment of African-American members to the EOC. He has appointed

two African-American members and acknowledged the importance of their contributions as well as those of other African-American members. Rep. Townsend also reported that, at the Superintendents Summer Conference, he was asked why the EOC membership did not include a superintendent. He pointed out that an attempt has been made to balance the membership. Those individuals who appoint EOC members as designees have an opportunity to appoint a superintendent; therefore, there is no automatic restriction of superintendents but there is not a designated seat. There are no designated seats for the members of a number of professional organizations and/or constituent groups.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.